



United Nations Economic
Commission for Europe



Ministry for the Environment,
Land and Sea



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INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN

26 - 27 November 2012
Chamber of Deputies, Rome, Italy

Provisional Agenda

DAY 1 - 26 November 2012

Registration: 09:00-10:00

10:00 – 10:30 Opening Session

- Mr. Massimo Cozzone, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy, Vice-Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention
- Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- Mr. Rafiq Hussein, Deputy Secretary General, Division for Water and Environment, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
- Mr. Mish Hamid, Project Manager, Global Environment Facility (GEF) IW:Learn III
- Mr. Michael Scoullos, Chairman, Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med)

10:30 – 11:50 Session 1

Setting the scene: Transboundary water resources management around the Mediterranean

The session will provide an overview on the status, key challenges and opportunities regarding transboundary water resources management across the Mediterranean, including presentations focusing on the situation in the different sub-regions.

Moderator: *Mr. Rafiq Husseini, UfM*

- An overview: Transboundary water resources management in the Mediterranean

Ms. Anthi Brouma, Senior Programme Officer, Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med)

- Inventory of shared water resources in Western Asia: Findings on status, challenges and cooperation

Mr. Andreas Renck, BGR Principal Advisor/Project Coordinator, ESCWA-BGR Cooperation

- Status, challenges and responses: North Africa

Mr. Khatim Kherraz, Executive Secretary, Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)

- Status, challenges and responses: South Eastern Europe

Ms. Francesca Bernardini, UNECE

Discussion

11:50 – 13:30 Session 2

Creating the enabling environment for cooperation: global and regional legal instruments

This session will focus on legal instruments that can be used to facilitate cooperation efforts over shared water bodies; how they have been used, what opportunities they offer. The meeting will discuss the extent to which these instruments can facilitate cooperation.

Moderator: *Mr. Stefano Burchi, International Association for Water Law*

- The UN Watercourses Convention: background, content and relevance

Ms. Flavia Loures, World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

- The UNECE Water Convention: from regional to global?

Ms. Francesca Bernardini, UNECE

- Fostering cooperation on transboundary aquifer resources

Ms. Alice Aureli, Chief of Section, Groundwater Systems, Natural Sciences Sector, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

- Developing a regional convention on shared water in the Arab region

Mr. Mohamed Al-Hamdi, First Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Discussion

13:30 – 14:45 Lunch Break

14:45– 16:00 Session 3

Creating the enabling environment for cooperation: Legal and institutional aspects

The session, based on cases from the Mediterranean, will discuss different legal and institutional aspects for promoting cooperation and management of transboundary water resources.

Moderator: *Mr. Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med*

- Establishing legal and institutional instruments: making use of a shared vision for the management of transboundary water resources

Mr. Dejan Panovski, Member, Drin Core Group

- The Necessity of developing a global transboundary groundwater framework: Examples from the Southern Mediterranean

Mr. Mohamed Elrawady, Water Resources Specialist, Center for Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)

- A framework for joint monitoring and assessment in the North Western Sahara Aquifer

Mr. Hervé Trebossen, Scientific and Technical Advisor, Sahara and Sabel Observatory (OSS)

Discussion

16:00– 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 – 18:15 Session 4

Creating the enabling environment for cooperation: Jointly managing water resources

This session will focus on experiences and lessons learnt, both positive and negative, from examples of joint management of shared resources.

Moderator: *Mr. Fadi Comair, former President, Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO) (tbc)*

- Jointly managing water resources: examples from Jordan

Mr. Mohammad Alatrash, Director, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan

- Cooperative water management in the Sava River Basin

Mr. Samo Grošelj, Deputy Secretary for Protection of Waters and Aquatic Eco-system, Sava River Basin Commission

- Creating the knowledge and instruments for the management of Karstic Aquifers

Mr. Neno Kukuric, Project Director, Dinaric Karstic Transboundary Aquifer System (DIKTAS) project

- Making use of ecosystem concept in transboundary water negotiations: the Iraqi Marshlands case within the Tigris-Euphrates system

Mr. Fouad Abousamra, Regional Coordinator, Ecosystems Management, United Nations Environment Program – Regional Office for Western Asia (UNEP ROWA)

Discussion

20:00 Dinner

09:00 – 11:00 Session 5

Creating the enabling environment for cooperation: Engaging the stakeholders and building their capacity

The session will examine stakeholder engagement in facilitating transboundary cooperation and ways to strengthen their capacity.

Moderator: *Ms. Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou, Chairperson of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD), Chairperson of the Environment Committee of the Hellenic Parliament*

- Capacity building on water diplomacy and negotiation skills in the Arab region

Ms. Chabra Ksia, President, Center of Water Studies and Arab Water Security, League of Arab States

- The Dialogue Approach in Transboundary Cooperation concerning Ecosystem Conservation

Mr. Nejjib Benessatib, Coordinator, MedWet

- Capacity building within the Palestinian Water Authority

Ms. Najwan Rukab, Joint Water Committee Unit, Palestinian Water Authority

- NGO involvement in transboundary water resources management

Ms. Thomais Vlachogianni, Programme Officer, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)

- Strengthening Institutions for Transboundary Waters in Africa, ANBO/GWP Pan-African Project with EU support

Mr. Francois Brikké, Senior Network Officer, Global Water Partnership (GWP)

Discussion

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00 Session 6

Creating the enabling environment for cooperation: Mobilising Financial Resources

The session will focus on experiences coming from different stakeholders (beneficiary countries, donors, other organisations) with regard to the mobilisation of financing for transboundary cooperation.

Panel Discussion

Moderator: *Mr. Chris Severin, Senior Environmental Specialist, Global Environment Facility (GEF)*

- *Ms. Amal Salama, Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt*

- *Mr. Moncef Rejaya, Director of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Tunisia*

- *Mr. Fuad Bateb, Senior Adviser, Division for Water & Environment, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)*

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00-16:00 Session 7

Advancing joint action

The session will examine ways of promoting joint action and cooperation on transboundary water resources management.

Facilitated discussion on, *inter alia*:

- *Would a Mediterranean process to assist North-South and South-South exchange of information and knowledge, build capacity and assist dialogue on technical aspects of transboundary water resources management be beneficial for advancing cooperation in the region?*
- *Are there transboundary basins / areas in which there are specific opportunities to further cooperation? Are there specific cases of cooperation on shared waters that can be promoted by the riparians as priority projects to be supported?*
- *Is the opening of the UNECE Water Convention an opportunity for countries in the Mediterranean?*

Moderators:

Mr. Rafiq Husseini, UfM

Ms. Francesca Bernardini, UNECE

Mr. Michael Sconllos, GWP-Med

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30-17:00 Session 8

Conclusions and Closing

Conclusions and closing of the Roundtable by the co-organisers

20:00 Dinner

28-30 November 2012: Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention